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***Extracts from the Journal of Captain HARRY GORDON,
Chief Engineer in the Western Department in North America,
who was sent from Fort Pitt on the River Ohio, down
the said River &c. to Illinois, in 1766.**

Reprinted from Pownall's "Topographical Description of North America,"
published, London, 1776.

June the 18th, 1766, embarked at Fort Pitt, on
the River Ohio, and arrived at the Mingo Town,^{Now Pitts-}
71 miles, on the 19th. The country between ^{burg}
these two Places is broken, with many high ^{F. J.}
ridges or hills; the vallies narrow, and the
course of the rived plunged from many high
grounds which compose its banks. When the
water is high, you go with moderate rowing
from six to seven miles an hour.

The 23d, arrived at the mouth of Muskingum
River, in latitude 39° 19'. Muskingum is 250^{G. l.}
yards wide, at its confluence with the Ohio, and
navigable for batteauxs 150 up: it runs through
a very pleasant and extremely fertile country.
Killed several buffaloes between the Mingo
Town and Muskingum; but the first we met with
were about 100 miles below Fort Pitt, which is
distant from Muskingum 161 miles.

The 29th, arrived at the mouth of the Scioto
366 miles; navigation good at all seasons with-^{H. n.}
out the least obstruction from the Mingo Town,
71 miles and a half from Fort Pitt, and indeed
very little from the mouth of Big Beaver

*Copy is exactly followed as to spelling, punctuation, marginal notes, etc.

Creek, which is 29 miles and a quarter from Fort Pitt. The Ohio River from 50 miles above Miskingum to Scioto is most beautiful, and interspersed with numbers of islands of different sizes, covered with the most stately timber; with several long reaches, one of which is 16 miles and a half, inclosed with the finest trees of various verdures, which afford a noble and enchanting prospect. A glorious vista found on one of these islands, is terminated by two small hills, shaped like sugar loaves, of very easy ascent, from whence you may see all this magnificent variety.

G. m. & H. n.

The rivers Hockhocking and Canhawa, fall into the Ohio in this space, beside many others of a smaller size. Up the Big Cahawa, the western Indians penetrate into the Cherokee country. It is a fine large river, and navigable by report, 100 miles towards the southward. The country on the Ohio, &c. is every where pleasant, with large level spots of the richest land, remarkably healthy. One general remark of this nature may serve for the whole tract of the globe comprehended between the western skirts of the Alleghany Mountains, beginning at Fort Ligonier, thence bearing south westerly to the distance of 500 miles opposite the Ohio Falls, then crossing them northerly to the heads of the rivers that empty themselves into the Ohio; thence east along the ridge that separates the lakes and Ohio's streams to French Creek, which is opposite to the above-mentioned Fort Ligonier northerly. This country may, from a proper knowledge, be affirmed to be the most healthy (as no sort of chronic disorder ever prevailed in it) the most pleas-

F. h.

ant, the most commodious, and most fertile spot of earth known to European people.

The latitude of Scioto is $38^{\circ} 22'$. Remained here till the 8th of July.

The 16th of July, encamped opposite to the Great Lick, 390 miles; it is five miles distance south of the river. The extent of the muddy part of the Lick is three-fourths of an acre.

J. O

The Ohio continues to be narrow from Fort Pitt to within 100 miles of the Falls; its breadth seldom exceeds 500 yards, and is confirmed by rising grounds, which cause many windings, although the reaches are sometimes from two to four miles long; the largest and most beautiful (as has been already mentioned) is above the Scioto, and is sixteen miles and a half. The Ohio, 100 miles above the Falls, widens to 700 yards in many places, and contains a great number of islands. The grounds diminish generally in height, and the country is not so broken. Some of the banks are, at times, overflowed by freshes; and there is scarce any place from Fort Pitt to the Falls where a good road may not be made along the banks of the river, and horses employed in drawing up bilanders against the stream, which is gentle, except in freshes. The height of the banks permit them everywhere to be settled, and they are not subject to crumble away.

The little and big Mineami rivers fall in between the Scioto on the north side, and the Licking Creek and Kentucke on the south side.

H. Q.

There are many good encampments on the islands, and one in particular very remarkable and safe, opposite to the Big Lick.

H. r.

The waters at the Falls were low; it being the summer. They do not, however, deserve the name of Falls, as the stream on the north side has no sudden pitch, but only runs rapid over the ledge of a fit limestone rock, which the Author of Nature put here to keep up the waters of the higher Ohio, and to be the cause of that beautiful stillness of that river's course above.

This bed or dam is made almost flat and smooth to resist less the current, which would soon get the better of greater resistance; but as it is subject to wear, there is enough of it, being two miles wide, and its length in the country unknown.

Several boats passed it at the very driest season of the year, when the waters are at the lowest, by unloading one-third of their freight. They passed on the north side, where the carrying-place is three-fourths of a mile long; and on the southeast side it is about half that distance, and is reckoned the safest passage for those who are unacquainted, but it is the most tedious, as, during part of the summer and fall, they must drag their *boats* over the flat rock.

The heat by day is by no means intense, and the coolness of the nights always required a blanket even in their tents. Notwithstanding the distance from Port Pitt is 682 miles, the latitude is not much southerly; the Falls being $38^{\circ} 8'$.

Westerly and southwest winds generally blow, and will greatly assist the navigation up the river Ohio.

The 23d July left the Falls, and encamped the 31st on a large island opposite to the mouth of the Wabash, which is 317 miles and a half below the Falls, and 999 miles and a half from Fort Pitt.

For all the remaining part of this Journal the reader must refer to the little

From the Falls to about half this distance of 317 miles and a half, the country is very hilly; the course of the river very winding and narrow, and but very few spots of level land on the sides of the river. The hills are mostly stoney and steep; but from the great herds of buffalo which we observed on the beaches of the river and islands into which they come for air, and coolness in the heat of the day, there must be good pasturage.

sketch on the west side of the map.

The ridgy ground ends 837 miles below Fort Pitt; the country then grows flat, and the river, whose bed widens, is often divided by islands.

The navigation is good from the Falls; but where the flat country begins, boats must keep the *principal channel*, which is on the *right hand* going down.

The Wabash is marked by a large island, round which boats may go most times of the year. The end of the fork of the two rivers, the Ohio and Wabash, is narrow, and overflowed; a mile and a half upwards the ground is higher. Very large herds of buffaloes are frequently seen in this country.

The river Wabash, at its confluence with the Ohio, is 306 yards wide, and it discharges a great quantity of a muddy kind of water into the Ohio. It is navigable 300 or 400 miles upwards, but boats smaller than 33 feet long and 7 feet wide, the size they then had, should be used on it, as there is no great depth of water in the summer and fall. Latitude of Wabash 37' 41°.* The country between the course of this river and the Mississippi is in general flat, open, and of a rich, luxuriant soil; that on the banks of the Ohio is level, and in many places hereabouts overflows.

*Error in original.

The 2d August, in the evening, left Wabash, stopped next morning near the Saline, or Salt Run; of which any quantity of good salt may be made here.

From hence Indians were sent to the Illinois, to notify our intended visit to that place.

The 6th of August, halted at Port Massiac, formerly a French post, 120 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, and 11 miles below the mouth of the Cherokee river. The country 25 miles from the Wabash begins again to be mountainous, being the northwest end of the Apalachian mountains, which entirely terminate a small distance from the river northerly. They are here between 50 and 60 miles across, and are scarpt, rocky precipices, below them no more high lands to be seen to the westward as far as those that border on the Mexican provinces. The French fixed a post here, to secure their traders against the Cherokees; and it would be proper for the English to have one on the same spot, to prevent an illicit trade being carried on up the Wabash.

Hunters from this fort, may get any quantity of buffaloes, and salt from the Saline, with very little trouble or expense.

The river Ohio is here, that is, from the entrance of the Cherokee river, between 700 and 800 yards wide. There is no proper spot for a post nearer the Cherokee river above, or on the Mississippi below, but this; as the grounds on the banks of the Ohio begin to be very low. The current of the river towards the Mississippi is very still, and may be easily ascended, if affairs are any ways doubtful at or near the Illinois.

The 7th, we arrived at the fork of the Ohio, in latitude $36^{\circ} 43'$. The gentle Ohio is pushed back by the impetuous stream of the Mississippi, where the muddy white water of the latter, is to be seen above 200 yards up the former. Examined the ground for several miles within the fork: it is an aggregation of mud and dirt, interspersed with marsh, and some ponds of water, and is in high times of the Missis-

ippi overflowed, which is the case with the other sides of both the Ohio and it. The mouth of the Ohio is 1164 miles from Port Pitt.

The 9th and 10th of August, stayed at the mouth of the Ohio. The 10th, began to ascend the Mississippi, whose rapid stream had broke through the country, and divided it every where with a number of islands. The low lands on each side continue eight leagues upwards, when it becomes broken, and small ridges appear the rest of the way to Kuskuskies: there are many islands in this distance, some of which are entirely rock.

The island of La Tour is six leagues below the Kuskuskies river, which is 31 leagues from the fork of Ohio.

The principal stream of the Mississippi is from 500 to 700 yards wide, but it is scarcely ever to be seen together, and some small parts are above a mile distant from one another. The principal stream likewise often shifts, as well as the depth of the channel, which make the pilotage of the river difficult, and boats often get aground in ascending, when endeavouring to avoid the rapid current.

The 19th, in the morning, arrived at the small river of the Kuskuskies, 80 yards wide at its mouth; it is deep; carries five feet water up to the village, which is two leagues from the mouth of the river, and is said to be navigable 50 leagues further up. The high grounds before-mentioned skirt along the south side of the Kuskuskies river, come opposite to the village, and continue along northerly, in a chain nearly parallel to the east branch of the Mississippi, at the distance of two or three miles from it. The space between is level, mostly open, and of the richest kind of soil, in which the inhabitants of the Illinois raise their grain, &c.

The Kuskuskies village is on the plain; it consists of 80 houses, well built, mostly of stone, with gardens, and large lots. The inhabitants generally live well, and have large stocks of cattle and hogs.

The road to Fort Chartres is along the plain, passing in some places near the chain of rocky height above-mentioned. The distance to the front is 18 miles. The road passes through the Indian village of the Keskesquois, of fifteen cabbins; also, through a French one, called *Prairie de Roche*, in which are 14 families; this last is three miles from Fort Chartres; between which is the village called *l'Etablissement*, mostly deserted, and the inhabitants removed to *Mis-saini*, on the west branch of the river, a little higher up the Kuskuskies.

The 20th of August, arrived at Fort Chartres, which is well imagined and finished. It has four bastions of stone masonry, designed defensible against musquetry. The barracks are also of masonry, commodious and elegant. The fort is large enough to contain 400 men, but may be defended by one third of that number against Indians.

Visited *Kyashshie*, 45 miles distant from Fort Chartres, and is the uppermost settlement on our side. In this rout we pass *l'petit village*, five miles from Fort Chartres, formerly inhabited by 12, but now by one family only. The abandoned houses are most of them well built, and are left in good order. The ground is excellent for grain, and a sufficiency cleared for 100 men.

At *Kyaboshie* are 40 families of French, who live well, and so might three times the number, as there is a great quantity of clear land near it: there are likewise 20 cabbins of the *Periorie* Indians left here; the rest, and best part of them, are removed to the French side, two miles below *Point Court*. Wheat thrives better here than at *Kuskuskies*, owing, probably, to its being more northerly by near a degree.

The village of *Point Court* is pleasantly situated on a high bank, which forms the western bank of the *Mississippi*; it is three miles higher up than *Kyaboskie*, has already 50 families, chiefly supported from thence. At this place, found *Mr. Le Clef*, the principal Indian trader, (he

resides here) who takes such good measures, that the whole trade of the Missouri, that of the Mississippi northward, and that of the nations near le Baye, Lake Machigan and Saint Josepho, by the Illinois river, is entirely brought to him. He is sensible and clever; has a good education; is very active, and will give us some trouble before we get the parts of this trade that belong to us into our hands. Our possession of the Illinois is only useful to us at present in one respect; it shews the Indian nations our superiority over the French, to whom they can thence perceive we give law; this is dearly bought to us, by the expence and inconvenience of supporting it. The French carry on the trade all around us by land and water. First, up the Mississippi, and to the lakes by Ouisconsia, Foxes, Chicagon and Illinois Rivers. Secondly, up the Ohio to the Wabash Indians; and even the small quantity of skins and furs that the Kuskuskies and Picarias (who are also on our side) get by hunting, is carried under our nose to Misere and Pain Court.

A garrison at the Illinois River, and a post at le Baye, will partly prevent the first; and one at Massiac will, as has been said, stop their intercourse with the people on the Wabash, who consist of several nations.

Cooped up at Fort Chartres only, we make a foolish figure; hardly have the dominion of the country, or as much credit with the inhabitants as to induce them to give us any thing for money, while our neighbors have plenty on trust.

The French have large boats of 20 tons, rowed with 20 oars, which will go in *seventy odd days* from New Orleans to the Illinois. These boats go to the Illinois twice a year, and are not half loaded on their return; was there any produce worth sending to market, they could carry it at no great expence. They, however, carry lead, the produce of a mine on the French side of the river, which yields but a small quantity, as they have not hands to work it. These

boats, in times of the floods, which happen only in May and June, go down to New Orleans from the Illinois in 14 and 16 days.

Distances from Fort Pitt in Latitude $40^{\circ} 26'$ to the Mouth of the Ohio, in Latitude $36^{\circ} 43'$, taken by Captain HARRY GORDON, Chief Engineer in America, on his Passage down the River Ohio, undertaken by Order in 1766; together with the Latitude of some of the most remarkable Places which he took at the same Time, viz.

	Latitude.	Miles.	Miles.
Logg's Town			$18\frac{1}{2}$
Big Beaver Creek		$10\frac{3}{4}$	$29\frac{1}{4}$
Little Beaver Creek		$12\frac{3}{4}$	42
Yellow Creek		$10\frac{1}{2}$	52
Mingo Town		$19\frac{3}{4}$	$71\frac{1}{2}$
Two Creeks			$72\frac{1}{4}$
Long Reach		51	$123\frac{1}{4}$
End of Long Reach		$14\frac{3}{4}$	138
Muskingum Run	$39^{\circ} 16'$	23	161
Little Kanhawa River.....		$12\frac{3}{4}$	$172\frac{3}{4}$
Hockhocking River		$13\frac{1}{4}$	126
Big Kannhawa River.....		$80\frac{1}{4}$	$266\frac{1}{4}$
Big Guyandot		$41\frac{3}{4}$	308
Big Sandy Creek		13	321
Scioto River	$38^{\circ} 22'$	45	366
Big Buffalo Lick, one mile eastward of the Ohio		24	390
Large Island, divided by a gravelley beach		$20\frac{1}{2}$	$410\frac{1}{2}$
Little Mineami River		$81\frac{3}{4}$	$492\frac{3}{4}$
Licking Creek		8	$500\frac{1}{4}$
Great Mineami River.....		$26\frac{3}{4}$	$527\frac{1}{2}$
The place where the elephant's bones were found		$32\frac{3}{4}$	$560\frac{1}{4}$
Kentucké River		$44\frac{1}{4}$	$604\frac{1}{2}$
The Falls	$38^{\circ} 8'$	$77\frac{1}{2}$	682
Where the Low Country begins.....		$155\frac{3}{4}$	$837\frac{3}{4}$
Beginning of the Five Islands.....		$37\frac{3}{4}$	$875\frac{1}{4}$
Large river on the east side.....		27	$902\frac{1}{4}$
Very large island in the middle of the river		58	$690\frac{1}{4}$
Wabash River		$38\frac{3}{4}$	$999\frac{1}{2}$
Big rock and cave on the west side....		$42\frac{3}{4}$	$1,042\frac{1}{4}$
Shawana River		$52\frac{1}{2}$	$1,094\frac{3}{4}$
Cherokee River		13	$1,107\frac{3}{4}$
Fort Massale		11	$1,118\frac{3}{4}$
The mouth of the Ohio River.....	$36^{\circ} 43'$	46	1,164